parameters of a BTT and sending OA&M commands to an LSR. U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/589,464 describes two types of INMPs-test INMPs and command INMPs. A command INMP includes an OA&M command intended for a target LSR, which is a specific LSR targeted to receive the command INMP. Once the target LSR receives the command INMP, the LSR processes the INMP, e.g., by performing the command, and the INMP is terminated. A test INMP is used for testing parameters of a BTT. For example, a test IMLP, constructed by a LER, for testing delay and connectivity of a BTT may be looped around a BTT. Each LSR in the path of the BTT receives and processes the INMP, for example, by performing a set of local operations. After processing the test INMP, the LSR receiving the test INMP transmits the test INMP to a next hop on the BTT. In the case of a loopback test, after the text INMP has been looped around the BTT and once the originating LER that originally constructed the test INMP receives the test INMP, the originating LER can ascertain delay of the BTT and whether the BTT is connected. Test INMPs may be used to test connectivity, delay and other QoS parameters.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to include current information on the U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/589,464, entitled "Loopback Capability for Bi-Directional Multi-Protocol Label Switching Traffic Engineered Trunks" filed the same day as the present application.

Should the Examiner have any questions prior to issuing a first Office Action, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number given.